

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please substitute the following claims for the pending claims with the same number:

1       1. (Amended) A method for protecting digital images image files distributed  
2       over a network, comprising the steps of:

3               receiving a request from a client computer running a network  
4       browser, for an original layout page containing references to digital images image  
5       files therein;

6               parsing the original layout page for the references to digital  
7       images image files;

8               generating a modified layout page from the original layout page  
9       by replacing at least one of the references to digital images image files in the  
10      original layout page with references to substitute data files, prior to responding to  
11      the client computer request; and

12               sending the modified layout page to the client computer in  
13      response to the client computer request.

1       2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the layout page is a hyper-text  
2       markup language (HTML) page.

1       3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the layout page is an extended  
2       markup language (XML) page.

1       4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the layout page is an active  
2       server page (ASP).

1       5. (Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of  
2       determining characteristics of the network browser used by the client computer to  
3       issue the request.

1       6. (Amended) The method of claim 5 wherein the types of substitute data files  
2       referenced in the modified layout page depends depend on the characteristics of  
3       the network browser used by the client computer.

1       7. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said parsing step comprises the  
2       steps of:

3               locating tags within the layout page indicating references to  
4       digital images image files; and

5               identifying protection status of the digital images image files,  
6       based on information in a protection status database.

1       8. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said parsing step comprises the  
2       steps of:

3               locating tags within the layout page delimiting protected parts of  
4       the layout page;

5               extracting references to digital images image files within the  
6       protected parts of the layout page; and

7               identifying protection status of the digital images image files,  
8       based on information in a protection status database.

1       9. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the substitute data files is are  
2       pre-defined data files.

1       10. (Amended) The method of claim 9 wherein the pre-defined data files is are  
2       pre-defined text data files.

1       11. (Amended) The method of claim 9 wherein the pre-defined data files is are  
2       pre-defined digital image data files.

1       12. (Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of deriving  
2       the substitute data files from the digital images image files.

1       13. (Amended) The method of claim 12 wherein the substitute data files is  
2       include watermarked data images derived from the digital images image files.

1       14. (Amended) The method of claim 12 wherein the substitute data files is  
2       include encrypted data derived from the digital images image files using an  
3       encryption algorithm.

1       15. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the references to  
2       digital images image files is a reference to an alias for a protected digital image  
3       file name.

1       16. (Amended) The method of claim 15 further comprising ~~the step of~~ looking  
2       up a file name for the protected digital image file, corresponding to the alias for  
3       the protected digital image file name.

1       17. (Amended) The method of claim 15 wherein the protected digital image file  
2       resides on a remote computer.

1       18. (Amended) The method of claim 17 further comprising ~~the step of~~ looking  
2       up an address for the remote computer and a file name for the protected digital  
3       image file, corresponding to the alias for the protected digital image file name.

1       19. (Amended) The method of claim 18 further comprising ~~the steps of:~~  
2               requesting a protected digital image data file from the remote  
3       computer, using the address for the remote computer and the file name for the  
4       protected digital image file; and  
5               receiving a protected digital image data file from the remote  
6       computer.

1       20. (Amended) The method of claim 19 further comprising ~~the step of~~ deriving  
2       the substitute data file from the protected digital image data file.

1       21. (Amended) The method of claim 20 wherein the substitute data file is  
2       includes a watermarked data image derived from the protected digital image data  
3       file.

1       22. (Amended) The method of claim 20 wherein the substitute data file is  
2       includes encrypted data derived from the protected digital image data file using an  
3       encryption algorithm.

1       23. (Amended) A system for protecting digital images image files distributed  
2       over a network, comprising:

3               a receiver receiving a request from a client computer running a  
4       network browser, for an original layout page containing references to digital  
5       images image files therein;

6               a layout page parser parsing the original layout page for the  
7       references to digital images image files;

8               a layout page generator generating a modified layout page from  
9       the original layout page by replacing at least one of the references to digital  
10      images image files in the original layout page with references to substitute data  
11      files, prior to responding to the client computer request; and

12       a transmitter sending the modified layout page to the client  
13      computer in response to the client computer request.

1       24. (Original) The system of claim 23 wherein the layout page is a hyper-text  
2       markup language (HTML) page.

1       25. (Original) The system of claim 23 wherein the layout page is an extended  
2       markup language (XML) page.

1       26. (Original) The system of claim 23 wherein the layout page is an active  
2       server page (ASP).

1       27. (Original) The system of claim 23 further comprising a browser detector  
2       determining characteristics of the network browser used by the client computer to  
3       issue the request.

1       28. (Amended) The system of claim 27 wherein the substitute data files  
2       referenced in the modified layout page depends depend on the characteristics of  
3       the network browser used by the client computer.

1       29. (Amended) The system of claim 23 wherein said layout page parser  
2       comprises:

3               a tag locator locating tags within the layout page indicating  
4       references to digital images image files; and

5 a protection status detector identifying protection status of the  
6 digital images image files, based on information in a protection status database.

1       30. (Amended) The system of claim 23 wherein said layout page parser  
2       comprises:

3 a tag locator locating tags within the layout page delimiting  
4 protected parts of the layout page;

5 a digital image detector extracting references to digital images  
6 image files within the protected parts of the layout page; and

7 a protection status detector identifying protection status of the  
8 digital images image files, based on information in a protection status database.

1 31. (Amended) The system of claim 23 wherein the substitute data files ~~is are~~  
2 pre-defined data files.

1 32. (Amended) The system of claim 31 wherein the pre-defined data files ~~is~~ are  
2 pre-defined text data files.

1 33. (Amended) The system of claim 31 wherein the pre-defined data files is are  
2 pre-defined image data files.

1 34. (Amended) The system of claim 33 further comprising a data processor  
2 deriving substitute data files from the digital ~~images~~ image files.

1 35. (Amended) The system of claim 34 wherein the substitute data files is  
2 include watermarked data images derived from the digital images image files.

1       36. (Amended) The system of claim 34 wherein the substitute data files is  
2       include encrypted data derived from the digital images image files using an  
3       encryption algorithm.

1       37. (Amended) The system of claim 23 wherein at least one of the references to  
2       digital ~~images~~ image files is a reference to an alias for a protected digital image  
3       file name.

1       38. (Amended) The system of claim 37 further comprising a file name index  
2       containing a file name for the protected digital image file corresponding to the  
3       alias for the protected digital image file name.

1       39. (Amended) The system of claim 37 wherein the protected digital image file  
2       resides on a remote computer.

1       40. (Amended) The system of claim 39 further comprising an address and file  
2       name index containing an address for the remote computer and a file name for the  
3       protected digital image file, corresponding to the alias for the protected digital  
4       image file name.

1       41. (Amended) The system of claim 40 wherein said transmitter requests the  
2       protected digital image data file from the remote computer, using the address for  
3       the remote computer and the file name for the protected digital image file, and  
4       wherein said receiver receives the protected digital image data file from the  
5       remote computer.

1       42. (Amended) The system of claim 41 further comprising a data processor  
2       deriving a substitute data file from the protected digital image data file.

1       43. (Amended) The system of claim 42 wherein the substitute data file is  
2       includes a watermarked data image derived from the protected digital image data  
3       file.

1       44. (Amended) The system of claim 42 wherein the substitute data file is  
2       includes encrypted data derived from the protected digital image data file using an  
3       encryption algorithm.

1       45. (Amended) A method for protecting digital images image files distributed  
2       over a network, comprising the steps of:

3               receiving a request from a client computer;  
4               submitting the request to a server computer;  
5               receiving an original layout page containing references to digital  
6       images image files therein from the server computer;

parsing the original layout page for the references to digital images image files;

generating a modified layout page from the original layout page by replacing at least one of the references to digital images image files in the original layout page with references to substitute data files, prior to responding to the client computer request; and

sending the modified layout page to the client computer in response to the client computer request.

46. (Amended) The method of claim 45 further comprising the steps of:  
appending an identifier to the request;  
authenticating the request based on the identifier; and  
removing the identifier from the request.

47. (Amended) The method of claim 46 further comprising the step of randomly generating the identifier.

48. (Amended) The method of claim 45 further comprising the step of dynamically generating the original layout page.

49. (Original) The method of claim 45 wherein the layout page is a hyper-text markup language (HTML) page.

50. (Original) The method of claim 45 wherein the layout page is an extended markup language (XML) page.

51. (Original) The method of claim 45 wherein the layout page is an active server page (ASP).

52. (Amended) The method of claim 45 wherein said parsing step comprises the steps of:

locating tags within the layout page indicating references to digital images image files; and

identifying protection status of the digital images image files, based on information in a protection status database.

1       53. (Amended) The method of claim 45 wherein said parsing step comprises the  
2       steps of:

3               locating tags within the layout page delimiting protected parts of  
4       the layout page;

5               extracting references to digital images image files within the  
6       protected parts of the layout page; and

7               identifying protection status of the digital images image files,  
8       based on information in a protection status database.

1       54. (Amended) The method of claim 45 wherein the substitute data files is are  
2       pre-defined image data files.

1       55. (Amended) The method of claim 45 further comprising ~~the step of~~ deriving  
2       the substitute data files from the digital images image files.

1       56. (Amended) The method of claim 55 wherein the substitute data files is  
2       include watermarked data images derived from the digital images image files.

1       57. (Amended) The method of claim 55 wherein the substitute data files is  
2       include encrypted data derived from the digital images image files using an  
3       encryption algorithm.

1       58. (Amended) The method of claim 45 wherein at least one of the references to  
2       digital images image files is a reference to an alias for a protected digital image  
3       file name.

1       59. (Amended) The method of claim 58 further comprising ~~the step of~~ looking  
2       up a file name for the protected digital image file, corresponding to the alias for  
3       the protected digital image file name.

1       60. (Amended) The method of claim 58 wherein the protected digital image file  
2       resides on a remote computer.

1       61. (Amended) The method of claim 60 further comprising ~~the step of~~ looking  
2       up an address for the remote computer and a file name for the protected digital  
3       image file, corresponding to the alias for the protected digital image file name.

1       62. (Amended) The method of claim 61 further comprising ~~the steps of~~:  
2                   requesting protected a digital image data file from the remote  
3       computer, using the address for the remote computer and the file name for the  
4       protected digital image file; and  
5                   receiving the protected digital image data file from the remote  
6       computer.

1       63. (Amended) The method of claim 62 further comprising ~~the step of~~ deriving  
2       the substitute data file from the protected digital image data file.

1       64. (Amended) The method of claim 63 wherein the substitute data file is  
2       includes a watermarked data image derived from the protected digital image data  
3       file.

1       65. (Amended) The method of claim 63 wherein the substitute data file is  
2       includes encrypted data derived from the protected digital image data file using an  
3       encryption algorithm.

1       66. (Amended) A system for protecting digital images image files distributed  
2       over a network, comprising:

3                   a receiver receiving a request from a client computer and  
4       receiving an original layout page containing references to digital images image  
5       files therein from a server computer;

6                   a transmitter submitting the request to the server computer, and  
7       sending a modified layout page to the client computer in response to the client  
8       computer request;

9                   a layout page parser parsing the original layout page for the  
10      references to digital images image files; and

11                  a layout page generator generating the modified layout page from  
12      the original layout page by replacing at least one of the references to digital

13        images image files in the original layout page with references to substitute data  
14        files, prior to responding to the client computer request.

1        67. (Original) The system of claim 66 further comprising:  
2                a request modifier appending an identifier to the request and  
3                removing the identifier from the request; and  
4                a request authenticator authenticating the request based on the  
5                identifier.

1        68. (Original) The system of claim 67 further comprising an identifier generator  
2                randomly generating the identifier.

1        69. (Original) The system of claim 66 further comprising an interpreter  
2                dynamically generating the original layout page.

1        70. (Original) The system of claim 66 wherein the layout page is a hyper-text  
2                markup language (HTML) page.

1        71. (Original) The system of claim 66 wherein the layout page is an extended  
2                markup language (XML) page.

1        72. (Original) The system of claim 66 wherein the layout page is an active  
2                server page (ASP).

1        73. (Amended) The system of claim 66 wherein said layout page parser  
2                comprises:  
3                a tag locator locating tags within the layout page indicating  
4                references to digital images image files; and  
5                a protection status detector identifying protection status of the  
6                digital images image files, based on information in a protection status database.

1        74. (Amended) The system of claim 66 wherein said layout page parser  
2                comprises:  
3                a tag locator locating tags within the layout page delimiting  
4                protected parts of the layout page;

5 a digital image detector extracting references to digital images  
6 image files within the protected parts of the layout page; and

7 a protection status detector identifying protection status of the  
8 digital **images** image files, based on information in a protection status database.

1 75. (Amended) The system of claim 66 wherein the substitute data files is are  
2 pre-defined image data files.

1        76. (Amended) The system of claim 66 further comprising a data processor  
2        deriving substitute data files from the digital images image files.

1 77. (Amended) The system of claim 76 wherein the substitute data files is  
2 include watermarked data images derived from the digital images image files.

1       78. (Amended) The system of claim 76 wherein the substitute data files is  
2       include encrypted data derived from the digital images image files using an  
3       encryption algorithm.

1       79. (Amended) The system of claim 66 wherein at least one of the references to  
2       digital images image files is a reference to an alias for a protected digital image  
3       file name.

1       80. (Amended) The system of claim 79 further comprising a file name index  
2       containing a file name for the protected digital image file corresponding to the  
3       alias for the protected digital image file name.

1        81. (Amended) The system of claim 79 wherein the protected digital image file  
2        resides on a remote computer.

1 82. (Amended) The system of claim 81 further comprising an address and file  
2 name index containing an address for the remote computer and a file name for the  
3 protected digital image file, corresponding to the alias for the protected digital  
4 image file name.

1       83. (Amended) The system of claim 82 wherein said transmitter requests the  
2       protected digital image data file from the remote computer, using the address for  
3       the remote computer and the file name for the protected digital image file, and  
4       wherein said receiver receives the protected digital image data file from the  
5       remote computer.

1       84. (Amended) The system of claim 83 further comprising a data processor  
2       deriving the substitute data file from the protected digital image data file.

1       85. (Amended) The system of claim 84 wherein the substitute data file is  
2       includes a watermarked data image derived from the protected digital image data  
3       file.

1       86. (Amended) The system of claim 84 wherein the substitute data file is  
2       includes encrypted data derived from the protected digital image data file using an  
3       encryption algorithm.